WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

5

1. A document retrieval apparatus,
comprising:

a query character string input unit that
accepts an input of a query character string
10   including a plurality of retrieval keywords;

a document select unit that selects one or
more documents that match the query character string
from a document database;

a retrieval result output unit that
15   presents retrieval results of the selected documents
to a user; and

a document output unit that presents the
contents of one of the selected documents designated
by the user;

20   wherein

the document output unit determines a
manner in which the retrieval keywords are displayed
in the presented one of the selected documents in
accordance with a feature index indicating an extent
25   to which each of the retrieval keywords has

contributed to the selection of the documents, and highlights the retrieval keywords in the determined manner.

5

2. The document retrieval apparatus as claimed in claim 1,

10   wherein

the feature index corresponding to one of the retrieval keywords indicates the number of the selected documents including one of the retrieval keywords.

15

3. The document retrieval apparatus as

20 claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

a feature index/color table in which a corresponding relation of the feature index to a color is registered;

wherein

25   the document output unit determines the

color corresponding to the feature index of each
retrieval keyword with reference to the feature
index/color table, and displays the retrieval keyword
using the determined color in a different manner from
5   a manner in which other words are displayed.

10   4.   The document retrieval apparatus as
claimed in claim 1, further comprising:
          a feature index/gray scale table in which a
corresponding relation of the feature index to a gray
scale of a color is registered;
15   wherein
          the document output unit determines the
gray scale of the color corresponding to each feature
index of the retrieval keyword with reference to the
feature index/gray scale table, and displays the
20   retrieval keyword using the determined gray scale of
the color in a different manner from a manner in
which other words are displayed.

25

5.   The document retrieval apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

a feature index/type face table in which a corresponding relation of the feature index to a type face is registered;

wherein

the document output unit determines the type face corresponding to the feature index of each retrieval keyword with reference to the feature index/type face table, and displays the retrieval keyword using the determined type face in a different manner from a manner in which other words are displayed.

6.   The document retrieval apparatus as claimed in claim 5,

wherein

the type face includes at least one of font, size, and style of a character.

7.   The document retrieval apparatus as
claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

5   a ranking unit that ranks the retrieval
keywords included in the selected documents in
accordance with a feature index indicating an extent
to which each retrieval keyword has contributed to
the selection of the selected documents;

10   wherein

the document output unit, when highlighting
the retrieval keywords in the determined manner,
displays the result of the ranking with the contents
of one of the selected documents.

15

8.   A document retrieval apparatus,
20 comprising:

a query character string input unit that
accepts an input of a query character string
including a plurality of retrieval keywords;

a document select unit that selects one or
25 more documents that match the query character string

from a document database;

a retrieval result output unit that presents retrieval results of the selected documents to a user; and

5   a document output unit that presents the contents of one of the selected documents designated by the user;

wherein

the query character string input unit can

10   accept an input of a word other than the retrieval keywords that is to be highlighted by the document output unit in the presented one of the selected documents.

15

9.   The document retrieval apparatus as claimed in claim 8,

20   wherein

the query character string input unit accepts a designation of a retrieval keyword that is not to be highlighted in the designated one of the selected documents.

25

10. A document retrieval apparatus,

5 comprising:

a query character string input unit that accepts an input of a query character string including a plurality of retrieval keywords;

a document select unit that selects one or

10 more documents that match the query character string from a document database;

a retrieval result output unit that presents retrieval results of the selected documents to a user; and

15 a document output unit that presents the contents of one of the selected documents designated by the user;

wherein

one of the query character string input

20 unit and the retrieval result output unit displays a list of the retrieval keywords used for the retrieval; and

when one of the retrieval keywords in the list is selected, the document output unit scrolls

25 the presented one of the selected documents up to a

place where the selected one of the retrieval
keywords is first displayed.

5

11.   The document retrieval apparatus as
claimed in claim 10,
wherein
10   when any one of the retrieval keywords
included in the presented one of the selected
documents is selected, the document output unit
scrolls to a next place where the selected one of the
retrieval keywords appears and displays the next
15   place.

20   12. The document retrieval apparatus as
claimed in claim 10,
wherein
the document output unit can display
position information that indicates a position of the
25   selected one of the retrieval keywords in the

presented one of the selected documents.

13. A method of retrieving documents, comprising the steps of:

accepting an input of a query character string including a plurality of retrieval keywords;

selecting one or more documents that match the query character string from a document database;

presenting retrieval results of the selected documents to a user; and

presenting the contents of one of the selected documents designated by the user;

wherein

a manner in which the retrieval keywords are displayed in the presented one of the selected documents is determined in accordance with a feature index indicating an extent to which each of the retrieval keywords has contributed to the selection of the documents, and the retrieval keywords are highlighted in the determined manner.

14. The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein

5   the feature index corresponding to a retrieval keyword indicates a number of the selected documents including the retrieval keyword.

10

15. The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein

a color corresponding to the feature index

15   of each retrieval keyword is determined with reference to a feature index/color table in which a corresponding relation of the feature index to the color is registered, and the retrieval keyword is displayed using the determined color in a different

20   manner from a manner in which other words are displayed.

25

16. The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein

the document output unit determines a gray scale of a color corresponding to the feature index

5   of each retrieval keyword with reference to a feature index/gray scale table in which a corresponding relation of the feature index to the gray scale of the color is registered, and the retrieval keyword is displayed using the determined gray scale of the

10   color in a different manner from a manner in which other words are displayed.

15

17. The document retrieval apparatus as claimed in claim 1,

wherein

a type face corresponding to the feature

20   index of each retrieval keyword is determined with reference to a feature index/type face table in which a corresponding relation of the feature index to the type face is registered, and the retrieval keyword is displayed using the determined type face in a

25   different manner from a manner in which other words

are displayed.

5

18. The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein

the type face includes at least one of font, size, and style of a character.

10

19. The method as claimed in claim 13,

15 further comprising the step of:

ranking the retrieval keywords included in the selected documents in accordance with a feature index indicating an extent to which each retrieval keyword has contributed to the selection of the

20 selected documents.

25   20. A method of retrieving documents,

comprising the steps of:

accepting an input of a query character string including a plurality of retrieval keywords;

selecting one or more documents that match

5 the query character string from a document database;

presenting retrieval results of the selected documents to a user; and

presenting the contents of one of the selected documents designated by the user;

10 wherein

in the step of accepting an input of the query character string, an input of a word other than the retrieval keywords that is to be highlighted in the presented one of the selected documents can be

15 designated.

20 21. The method as claimed in claim 20, wherein

a retrieval keyword that is not to be highlighted in the designated one of the selected documents can be designated.

25

22. A method of retrieving documents,

5 comprising the steps of:

accepting an input of a query character string including a plurality of retrieval keywords;

selecting one or more documents that match the query character string from a document database;

10 presenting retrieval results of the selected documents to a user; and

presenting the contents of one of the selected documents designated by the user;

wherein

15 a list of the retrieval keywords used for the retrieval is displayed; and

when one of the retrieval keywords in the list is selected, the presented one of the selected documents is scrolled up to a place where the

20 selected one of the retrieval keywords is first included.

25

23. The method as claimed in claim 22, wherein

when any one of the retrieval keywords included in the presented one of the selected documents is selected, the document is scrolled to a next place where the selected one of the retrieval keywords appears, and the next place is displayed.

24. The method as claimed in claim 22, wherein

in the step of presenting one of the selected documents, position information that indicates a position of the selected one of the retrieval keywords in the presented one of the selected documents is displayed.

25. A computer program that causes a computer to operate as the document retrieval apparatus as claimed in claim 1.

5   26. A computer readable recording medium
storing the computer program as claimed in claim 25.